

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 stand allowed. This Amendment to claims 7-8 and 17-18 is submitted under Rule 312 and M.P.E.P. § 714.16. Note that this Amendment *does not affect* 5 *(e.g., withdraw, change)* allowed claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. This Amendment is filed before the payment of the Issue Fee.

A. This Amendment is needed to overcome an apparent misunderstanding regarding claims 7-8 and 17-18.

B. This Amendment requires no additional search or examination, because the 10 claims have already been searched and examined, the amended claims are dependent from independent claims already searched and examined, and the Examiner agrees that the enclosed amendments overcome the § 112 rejection raised to the amended claims.

C. The claims are patentable because they cover novel, non-obvious combinations and, as amended, distinctly point out the subject matter claimed.

D. The claims were presented earlier, albeit there appears to have been a 15 misunderstanding between the Examiner and the Applicant regarding the status of the amended claims.

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Serial No. 09/427,447
Art Unit 2166
Examiner Samuel RIMMEL

SUMMARY

No fee is enclosed, as none is believed required. Applicant respectfully requests prompt entry of the Rule 312 Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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